

It seemed incomprehensible that *H. guttatipennis* should only occur singly with us. The secret is now out. It has not been looked for late enough. In Belgium it is recorded on the strength of a single specimen taken by Baron de Selys-Longchamps at Halloy, one of the family estates, on October 15th. I visited the precise locality in September, and now quite comprehend why it was not to be seen, and think the middle of October example was probably a precocious individual.—R. McLACHLAN].

Raphidia Ratzeburgi, Br., on the Simplon.—When staying at Berisal on the Simplon (over 5000 feet) last summer, the Rev. F. D. Morice captured an immature ♀ example of *R. Ratzeburgi*, a species which, although not new for Switzerland, is probably new for the district, and of sufficient rarity generally to merit notice. The only other species seen was *R. notata*, F.—R. McLACHLAN, Lewisham, London: January 4th, 1896.

The mildness of the season.—This year has commenced with the thermometer out of doors during the daytime above 50 degrees, and the atmosphere damp, with occasional gleams of bright sunshine, which has made great stir among the hive bees, much to the regret of the bee keepers, who well know that feeding will have to be resorted to if the tenants of the hive are to be kept alive through the remainder of the winter. A young friend on Sunday last (December 29th) in endeavouring to make a more intimate acquaintance with one, got stung in the hand. On January 1st I saw a full grown larva of *Pieris rapæ* crawling up the garden door, evidently bent on pupating a little higher up, and on the 2nd, the thermometer standing at 56, the hive bees were very active, flying about in search of flowers, which were very scanty at present; we have violets, primroses and anemones, and these are about all. In the afternoon, between 2 and 3 o'clock, I heard the unmistakable buzz of a queen wasp, and looking up, I saw her working her way along the wall trees as nimbly as in the late spring, and gave her chase and succeeded in capturing her (*Vespa britannica*); this is generally the earliest wasp on the wing, but I never before heard of one at so early a date, so think it worth recording.—V. R. PERKINS, Wotton-under-Edge: January 3rd, 1896.

Societies.

BIRMINGHAM ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY: November 19th, 1895.—Mr. P. W. ABBOTT, Vice-President, in the Chair.

The Chairman appealed to the Members for material, specimens, &c., to commence a local collection of *Lepidoptera* it was proposed to start in connection with the Society, for which a cabinet had been given by Mr. G. H. Kenrick. He asked chiefly for local species, of which good series were wanted, and requested for them to be carefully labelled.

Mr. R. C. Bradley showed seashore *Muscidæ*—*Actora æstuum*, Barmouth, *Orygma luctuosum*, Barmouth, *Cœlopa eximia*, Nevin, S. of Portland, and *C. pilipes*,